



South African Muaythai Organisation (SAMO)

Code of Conduct

1. Purpose

This Code of Conduct establishes the ethical standards, expected behaviours, and professional responsibilities of all individuals involved in the South African Muaythai Organisation (SAMO), including athletes, coaches, officials, administrators, members, and affiliates.

The objective is to promote integrity, respect, safety, and the positive development of Muaythai in South Africa.

2. Core Principles

All members of SAMO are expected to uphold the following principles:

2.1 Respect – Treat all individuals with dignity, regardless of background, role, or status.

2.2 Integrity – Act honestly, transparently, and in the best interest of the sport.

2.3 Discipline – Maintain high standards of personal and professional conduct.

2.4 Fair Play – Compete and operate within the rules and spirit of Muaythai.

2.5 Accountability – Take responsibility for actions and decisions.

2.6 Safety – Prioritise the physical and mental well-being of all participants.

3. General Conduct

All members must:

3.1 Conduct themselves in a professional and respectful manner at all times.

3.2 Refrain from abusive, discriminatory, or offensive language and behaviour.

3.3 Avoid any conduct that may bring SAMO or Muaythai into disrepute.

3.4 Comply with all SAMO rules, policies, and regulatory frameworks.

3.5 Respect officials, opponents, teammates, and event staff.

4. Athlete Responsibilities

Athletes shall:

- 4.1 Compete fairly and within the rules at all times.
- 4.2 Show respect to opponents before, during, and after competition.
- 4.3 Abstain from doping and comply with all anti-doping regulations.
- 4.4 Maintain discipline in training, competition, and public conduct.
- 4.5 Follow medical advice and prioritise personal safety.

5. Coaches and Corners

Coaches and corners must:

- 5.1 Act in the best interest of their athletes at all times.
- 5.2 Promote safe training practices and proper technique.
- 5.3 Demonstrate respect toward officials, opponents, and other coaches.
- 5.4 Refrain from encouraging dangerous, unethical, or illegal behaviour.
- 5.5 Serve as role models for athletes, especially youth participants.

6. Officials and Administrators

Officials and administrators shall:

- 6.1 Act impartially, fairly, and without bias.
- 6.2 Make decisions based on rules, evidence, and integrity.
- 6.3 Avoid conflicts of interest and disclose them where necessary.
- 6.4 Maintain professionalism in all communications and actions.
- 6.5 Ensure transparency and accountability in governance processes.

7. Anti-Doping and Substance Use

7.1 SAMO adopts a strict zero-tolerance policy toward doping.

7.2 All members must comply with applicable anti-doping regulations.

7.3 The use of illegal substances or performance-enhancing drugs is strictly prohibited.

7.4 Alcohol or substance abuse at events or in official capacities is not permitted.

8. Safeguarding and Welfare

8.1 Abuse, harassment, bullying, or exploitation of any kind is strictly prohibited.

8.2 Special care must be taken to protect minors and vulnerable individuals.

8.3 All members share responsibility for reporting safeguarding concerns.

8.4 A safe, inclusive, and supportive environment must be maintained at all times.

9. Equality and Non-Discrimination

SAMO is committed to equal opportunity and prohibits discrimination based on:

- Race
- Gender
- Religion
- Nationality
- Sexual orientation
- Disability

All members must actively support inclusivity within the sport.

10. Social Media and Public Conduct

10.1 Members must represent SAMO and Muaythai responsibly in public and online spaces.

10.2 Offensive, misleading, or harmful content is prohibited.

10.3 Confidential information must not be shared without authorization.

10.4 Public statements should reflect professionalism and respect.

11. Disciplinary Action

Breaches of this Code of Conduct may result in disciplinary measures, including:

- Verbal or written warnings
- Suspension from events or activities
- Revocation of licenses or membership
- Fines or sanctions
- Permanent expulsion in severe cases

All disciplinary actions will follow fair and transparent procedures.

12. Reporting Violations

- Any violation of this Code must be reported to SAMO officials or the designated disciplinary committee.
- Reports will be handled confidentially and investigated thoroughly.
- Whistleblowers acting in good faith will be protected from retaliation.

13. Acceptance

All members, upon registration or affiliation with SAMO, agree to:

Signed President South African Muaythai Organisation

David Spagnolo

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Spagnolo', written in a cursive style.